
**Homily – The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
Confirmations at Holy Redeemer Parish – June 4, 2023**

We often think of the Holy Trinity as an idea or a formula, but God truly dwells and is active in our world, in our faith community, in each of us. God the Father is a gentle, loving shepherd. We experience this in our lives when someone shows us mercy, compassion, understanding, unconditional love. Perhaps you can think of your mothers, your fathers, your grandparents, or someone who has made a positive impact in your lives. They are God's gift to you.

When we encounter others as sisters and brothers, we have an experience of our brother Jesus. He walks with us, helping us carry our burdens, calling us to conversion and to a change of attitude or lifestyle. He reassures us of God's enduring love for us. He is present in those who accompany us on our journey, who share our joys and sorrows.

We experience the influence of the Holy Spirit in our journey when we look back and see how God's hand has guided us and given us strength. When someone shares God's word with us, God's wisdom – or helps us work our way through a difficult stretch of the road – that person is giving us a glimpse of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The challenge for us is to open our eyes to see others with the eyes of faith, and to experience God dwelling at work in our lives through them, and to allow God to work also through our actions.

You received the Holy Spirit at your baptism. In a few moments I will lay my hands on each of you and call down the same Spirit upon you. He is the same Spirit who came upon the first disciples at

Pentecost. He will come into your lives in a new and powerful way. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will be increased in you. The Spirit of God will strengthen your faith and help you to be generous in your service of others. Your bond with the Church will grow stronger, and you will be empowered to help carry out the Church's mission and ministries. Your witness to the Lord Jesus will become more faithful to the gospel in your thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

We are all called to witness to the Good News of Jesus, who prayed to the Father: "that they may be one just as we are" (Jn 17:11). It is up to us to seek union, but we can only hope for unity. The Spirit of Unity is the Father's gift for us in response to the Lord's prayer. We open ourselves to the Holy Spirit as we seek unity through love. Pope Francis says that unity *"is essential to Christians: it is not an attitude, a manner of speaking, no; it is essential, because it is the unity that arises from love, from the mercy of God, from the justification of Jesus Christ and from the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts."* Thus – through your disposition to be God's instrument – the Holy Spirit will make the Triune God more present in the world through you.

We need to be renewed in mind and heart along with the whole community of faith and its leaders. The Holy Spirit will enable us to do precisely this – growing holy and active in the world, especially reaching out with God's love to our suffering sisters and brothers. We will walk the journey together! The risen Lord is with us! Our Lady of Guadalupe has promised to be with us always! The Holy Spirit will accompany us! Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!